

4W

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/936,917	SULLIVAN, JOHN ANTHONY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen Choi	3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a reply filed on 26 April 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 54-60,63-68,70,72-81,83,85-88 and 103-107.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 8/21/2003.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Election/Restrictions

1. In view of applicant's amendment filed on 26 April 2004, the restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed on 23 March 2004 is hereby withdrawn.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the limitations reciting an apparatus for processing sheet material including a sensing means located between a gate as claimed and a take-up mechanism as claimed wherein a microprocessor as claimed controlling a servo-motor of a drive transmitting arrangement as claimed in response to the sensing means and the position of the take-up mechanism as claimed to operate the drive transmitting arrangement automatically in a freewheel mode while in engagement with the lowermost sheet, and restraining means as claimed in combination with other limitations set forth in claim 83, an apparatus for feeding sheet material on demand to a take-up mechanism including a sensor located between a gate as claimed and the take-up mechanism as claimed wherein a microprocessor as claimed controlling a servo-motor of a drive mechanism as claimed in response to the sensor and the position of the take-up mechanism as claimed to operate the drive mechanism automatically in a freewheel mode while in engagement with the sheet at the same time the take-up mechanism commences to feed the lowermost sheet and ceasing freewheel rotation when the sheet cleared the drive mechanism as claimed in combination with other limitations set forth in claim 104, and an apparatus for processing sheet material including a sensor located between a gate as claimed and a take-up roller set as claimed wherein a microprocessor as claimed

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controlling a servo-motor of the drive roller set as claimed in response to the sensor and the rotational position of the take-up roller set as claimed to operate the drive roller set automatically in a freewheel mode while in engagement with the sheet at the same time the take-up roller set commences to engage the lowermost sheet, and a brake as claimed in combination with other limitations set forth in claim 107 are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art. For example, WO '269 discloses an apparatus for feeding sheet material including a gate and drive rollers to advance a lowermost sheet beneath the gate into take-up rolls and means to allow the drive rollers to freewheel. Thiel discloses a device for separating web sections from an endless web including a sensor and a controlling arrangement for controlling the operation based on the position on a mark on the web and the position of a cutting edge. However, WO '269 and Thiel, alone or in combination, do not disclose the sensing means as claimed wherein the microprocessor as claimed controlling the servo-motor as claimed in response to the sensing means and the position of the take-up mechanism as claimed to operate the drive transmitting arrangement automatically in the freewheel mode while in engagement with the lowermost sheet, and the restraining means as claimed in combination with other limitations set forth in claim 83, the sensor as claimed wherein the microprocessor as claimed controlling the servo-motor as claimed in response to the sensor and the position of the take-up mechanism as claimed to operate the drive mechanism automatically in the freewheel mode while in engagement with the sheet at the same time the take-up mechanism commences to feed the lowermost sheet and ceasing freewheel rotation when the sheet cleared the drive mechanism as claimed in

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combination with other limitations set forth in claim 104, and the sensor as claimed wherein the microprocessor as claimed controlling the servo-motor as claimed in response to the sensor and the rotational position of the take-up roller set as claimed to operate the drive roller set automatically in the freewheel mode while in engagement with the sheet at the same time the take-up roller set commences to engage the lowermost sheet, and the brake as claimed in combination with other limitations set forth in claim 107.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Choi whose telephone number is 703-306-4523. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 703-308-2187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SC
23 July 2004


STEPHEN CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER